

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**Present Invention and Pending Claims*

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending and are directed to a porous membrane. The porous membrane of the present invention as defined by the pending claims comprises a specific polyamide as a main material and is characterized by improved hot water resistance. Accordingly, the porous membrane of the present invention is industrially significant and particularly useful as a medical separation membrane suitable for AC sterilization.

*Amendments to the Claims*

The claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. More specifically, the subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. As such, claim 2 has been canceled, and claim 5 has been amended to recite dependence upon claim 1. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

*Summary of the Office Action*

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,935,141 (Buck et al.). The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 9-11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,217,227 (Effert et al.). Additionally, claims 8 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly containing obvious subject matter over U.S. Patent 4,935,141 (Buck et al.) in view of U.S. Patent 5,006,247 (Dennison et al.).

According to the Examiner, claims 2 and 5-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner acknowledged that claims 2 and 5-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the claims they depend upon.

Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

*Discussion of the Anticipation and Obviousness Rejections*

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, 13, and 14 were rejected as anticipated by the Buck reference and/or the Effert reference. Claims 8 and 12 were rejected as obvious over the Buck reference in view of the Dennison reference.

Claim 2 was not rejected as anticipated by or obvious over any of the cited references. More specifically, none of the cited references discloses or suggests a polyamide which comprises a dicarboxylic acid component comprising 60-100 mol% of terephthalic acid and a diamine component comprising 60-100 mol% of 1,9-nonenediamine and/or 2-methyl-1,8-octanediamine.

As indicated above, the feature of claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 and, therefore, all of the claims dependent thereon, namely, all of the other pending claims. Accordingly, the anticipation and obviousness rejections have been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

*Conclusion*

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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